

SCHOOL CHOICE SURVEY IN THE STATE



Public Opinion in Vermont:

Many agree with the concept of school choice. Some disagree. But everyone needs more information. As the public debate continues to grow louder about how best to provide a quality education to all Vermont children, it is critical to know the facts and to have a good understanding of public opinion.

This statistically representative sample of 1,200 likely Vermont voters illustrates public opinion on a range of K-12 education issues including school choice.

Vermont's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice

By:

Paul DiPerna

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

February 2009

**This poll released jointly by the Friedman Foundation for
Educational Choice and Vermonters for Better Education**

A MESSAGE FROM THE FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION:

COMMITMENT TO METHODS & TRANSPARENCY

The Friedman Foundation is committed to research that adheres to high scientific standards. Matters of methodology and transparency are taken seriously.

All individuals have opinions, and many organizations (like our own) have philosophical or mission orientations. Scientific methods, if designed well and followed closely, should neutralize these opinions and orientations. Research rules and methods minimize bias. We believe rigorous procedural rules of science prevent a researcher's motives, and an organization's particular orientation, from pre-determining results.

If research adheres to scientific standards, its findings can be relied upon no matter who has conducted it. If rules and methods are neither specified nor followed, then the biases of the researcher or an organization may become relevant, because a lack of rigor opens the door for those biases to affect the results.

We are committed to sound research and to provide quality information in a transparent and efficient manner. We welcome any and all questions related to our methodology and work.

Vermont's Opinion on K-12 Education and School Choice

By:

Paul DiPerna

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Poll conducted by:

Strategic Vision

February 2009

About the Author

Paul DiPerna (paul@friedmanfoundation.org) is director of partner services for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, an organization dedicated to educating the public on the issue of school choice. He joined the Friedman Foundation in September 2006. DiPerna directs the organization's state polling series and leads grantmaking and direct service activities in a dozen states. He previously served as assistant director for the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution, working there for more than six years. DiPerna was a research analyst for the first five issues of the Brown Center Report on American Education (2000-2004), and managed the activities of the National Working Commission on Choice in K-12 Education (2001-2005).

DiPerna has presented research at the American Sociological Association annual conference, and has published articles in *Education Next*, *First Monday*, the *Washington Examiner*, and the *Journal of Information Technology Impact*. He recently authored a chapter in the *Handbook of Research on Web Log Analysis*, published by Idea Group Publishing.

About Strategic Vision



Strategic Vision is an Atlanta-headquartered public relations and public affairs agency with a division that specializes in polling. The public affairs team is knowledgeable about politics, issues, and current events throughout the nation. Strategic Vision operates nationally, and its polls have been used by MSNBC, FOX News Channel, *Newsweek*, Bloomberg News, *Time Magazine*, BBC, ABC News, Scripps Howard, the *Washington Times*, and *USA Today*. The company's polls have been cited as some of the most accurate by National Journal's Hotline and Survey USA.

The Sponsors

Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

One American Square, Suite 2420

Indianapolis, IN 46282

Phone: 317-681-0745 • Fax: 317-681-0945

www.friedmanfoundation.org

Vermonters for Better Education

PO BOX 255

Woodbury, VT 05681

Phone: 802-472-5491

www.vermontersforbettereducation.com

THE FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION

State Polling Series

Oregon
January 2009

Montana
October 2008

Maryland
September 2008

Oklahoma
June 2008

Idaho
March 2008

Tennessee
March 2008

Nevada
January 2008

Illinois
December 2007

Other State Polls

Georgia
April 2007

Florida
January 2006

Arizona
January 2005

For a complete listing of the foundation's publications please visit our web site at:

www.friedmanfoundation.org

Table of Contents

Executive Summary..... 8

Methodology.....11

Findings 12

Demographic Perspectives (samples ≥ 60 respondents)

 K-12 Parents..... 13

 Burlington..... 15

 Northern Vermont..... 17

 Central Vermont..... 19

 Southern Vermont..... 21

 Democrats..... 23

 Independents..... 25

 Republicans..... 27

Forecasting Questions..... 28

Comparative Tables

 Community Identification..... 31

 Race/Ethnicity Identification..... 32

 Religious Identification..... 33

 Age Groups..... 34

 Family Income Groups..... 35

Demographics..... 37

Executive Summary

This statistically representative sample of 1,200 likely Vermont voters illustrates public opinion on a wide range of K-12 education issues. The underlying theme of the Friedman Foundation's *Survey in the State* series is to measure voter attitudes toward public institutions, leaders, innovative ideas, and the state's K-12 education system.

Engaged citizens have shared with us their views about “school choice” in the form of school vouchers, tax-credit scholarships, charter schools and virtual schools. Vermont is the ninth state to be surveyed in our series since the launch in December 2007.

This survey shows a striking contrast between public opinion and public reality. Responses indicate a wide disconnect between individual schooling preferences and actual school enrollments. **Forty-four percent** of Vermont parents said they would like to send their child to a private school; however in reality, approximately **8 percent** of Vermont's K-12 students attend private schools. **Twenty-five percent** of Vermont parents said they would like to send their child to a charter school. As of this school year, **Vermont has no charter school law**. **Twelve percent** of Vermont parents said they would choose a regular public school for their child. Approximately **92 percent** of Vermont's K-12 students attend regular public schools.¹ As we survey one state to the next, we continue to see this stark implication that states do not have sufficient school choice systems in place to match parents' schooling preferences.

A total of 1,200 phone interviews were conducted by Strategic Vision between October 17 and 19, 2008. The margin of error for the full sample of likely voters is ± 3 percentage points; the margin of error is higher when considering the number of respondents for a given demographic subgroup.

Key findings include:

- **Vermont's Democrats (D), Republicans (R), and Independents (I) find common ground on school choice topics and issues.** Voters who identify themselves differently in terms of political affiliation are likely to share common views on school choice policies. High levels of support exist for **town tuitioning** (D: 65 percent | R: 64 percent | I: 62 percent), **school vouchers** (D: 62 percent | R: 59 percent | I: 57 percent), **tax-credit scholarships** (D: 54 percent | R: 53 percent | I: 50 percent), and **charter schools** (D: 62 percent | R: 59 percent | I: 60 percent).
- **Forty-four percent of voters rate Vermont's public school system as “good” or “excellent.”** We consistently see this middling figure across the states. Recent state surveys using the same question indicate modest satisfaction levels with state public school systems. We have not yet seen a satisfaction rate greater than 50 percent.
- **Vermonters are content with current levels of public school funding.** Two out of three voters (**66 percent**) say Vermont's level of public school funding is either “about right” or “too high.” At least **76 percent** of the survey's respondents underestimate the actual per-pupil funding in Vermont public schools (\$13,604). The previously mentioned 66 percent figure is likely a restrained estimate.
- **Nearly half of Vermont voters (47 percent) say “lack of accountability” is the biggest challenge confronting Vermont's public school system.** Nearly a third of voters (**31 percent**) say poor student discipline and school safety are major issues.

- **Nearly nine out of ten Vermonters (89 percent) prefer choosing a school for their child among options that include private schools, charter schools, virtual schools, and homeschooling.** There is a consensus for a range of schooling options. This high figure is consistent with what we have learned from previous state surveys asking the same question, most recently in Oregon (87 percent), Montana (90 percent), Maryland (82 percent), and Oklahoma (83 percent).

- **Vermont voters value private schools.** When asked “what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child,” **44 percent** of respondents selected private schools. This finding is consistent with other recent state surveys: Oregon (44 percent), Montana (38 percent), Maryland (45 percent), and Oklahoma (41 percent).

- **Nearly two out of three voters (64 percent) support Vermont’s longstanding town tuitioning system.** It is also interesting to note the intensity of those who favor town tuitioning versus those who oppose the policy – Vermonters who “strongly favor” outnumber those who “strongly oppose” by a more than **four-to-one margin** (27 percent vs. 6 percent, respectively).

- **Vermonters show potential demand for new school models like charter schools and virtual schools.** Survey results show **61 percent** of voters are favorable to charter schools, and **44 percent** are favorable to virtual schools. Both of these findings are also moderate to high for K-12 parents and across family income groups.

- **About half of Vermonters favor a tax-credit scholarship system.** When asked if a proposal were to be made in Vermont to create a tax-credit scholarship system, **52 percent** of respondents say they favor a scholarship system funded by individual and business charitable donations. The results indicate significantly more support for universal eligibility of tax-credit scholarships versus financial need-based scholarships. (**58 percent vs. 43 percent**, respectively) This is true regardless of respondents’ income levels. For example, Vermonters with household incomes under \$25,000 agreed with universal eligibility compared to financial need-based eligibility, **53 percent to 36 percent**.

- **Fifty-nine percent of Vermont’s likely voters support school vouchers.** Nearly **three of five voters** say they are favorable toward a school voucher approach for helping families pay for their child’s school tuition. There is a contrast in the intensity of those who favor school vouchers versus those who oppose such policy—Vermonters who “strongly favor” outnumber those who “strongly oppose” by a more than **two-to-one margin** (32 percent vs. 13 percent, respectively).

¹ Vermont public school and private school enrollments obtained using the Common Core of Data (CCD) and Private School Universe Survey (PSS) table-building tools found on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) website: <http://nces.ed.gov>.

Methodology

This survey provides a statistical representation of the views of likely voters in Vermont. We obtained a total of 1,200 completed interviews. The sample's statistical significance and probability is sufficient for assessment and decision-making purposes. The statistical margin of error at the conventional 95 percent confidence level is ± 3 percentage points.

Strategic Vision conducted phone interviews using a random sample of registered Vermont voters from its call center. Random Digit Dial samples were produced by Survey Sampling International (SSI) using a sampling frame that includes all active telephone area codes and exchanges in the United States.

SSI starts with a database of all listed telephone numbers, updated on a four- to six-week rolling basis, 25 percent of listings at a time. All active blocks—contiguous groups of 100 phone numbers for which more than one residential number is listed—are added to this database. Blocks and exchanges that include only listed business numbers are excluded.

Strategic Vision's live callers conducted all phone interviews from October 17 to 19, 2008. A total of 3,136 calls were made in Vermont. Of these calls 213 were disconnected, non-residential, or non-answers; 1,112 were refusals; 439 did not qualify as likely voters; 172 did not complete the survey. The response rate for this survey was 48.3%.

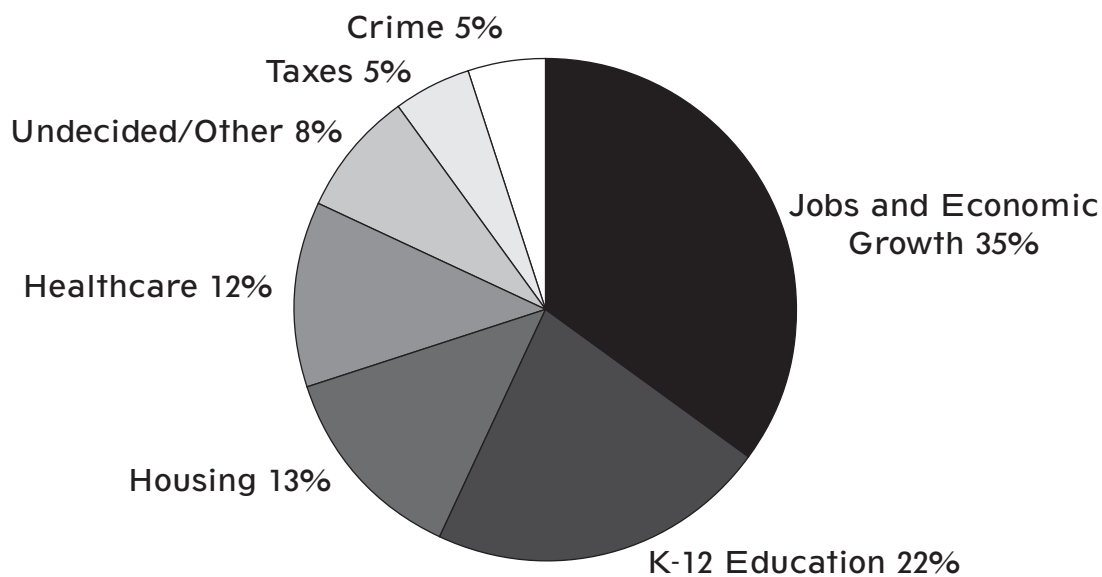
Screening questions were used to determine past voting behavior and likely voting in 2008. Respondents were asked whether they had voted in the 2006 election and were planning to vote in the next election in 2008. Respondents who satisfied both these criteria were classified as "likely voters" and were included in the survey. Respondents who either did not vote in 2006 or were not likely to vote in the next election were not included.

The author of this report takes sole responsibility for any errors or misrepresentations.

Findings

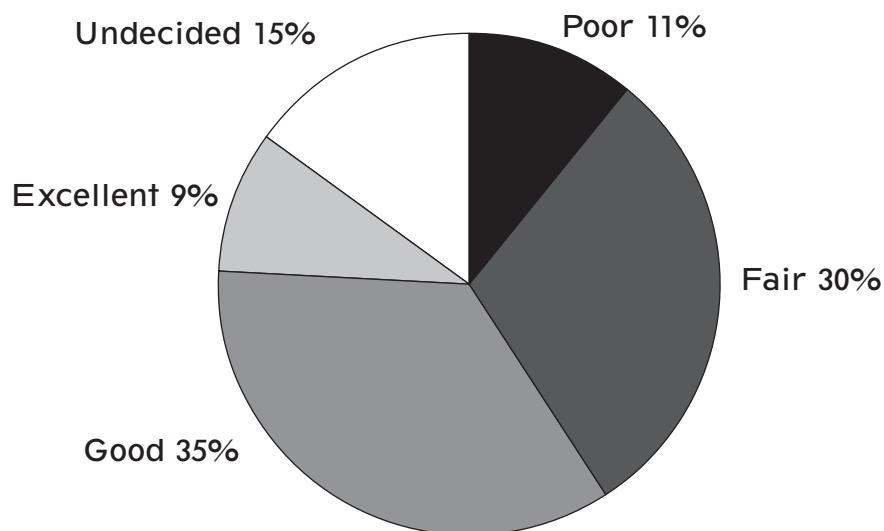
The following are the results of the survey.

1. I am going to name several issues facing the State of Vermont, and I would like you to select the one that is most important to you. _____



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

2. How would you rate Vermont's public school system? _____



Demographic Perspectives

K-12 PARENTS (n=1,044)

43% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

44% prefer private schools

12% prefer regular public schools

25% prefer charter schools

18% prefer homeschooling

64% are familiar with town tuitioning; 64% favor town tuitioning

35% are familiar with virtual schools; 46% favor virtual schools

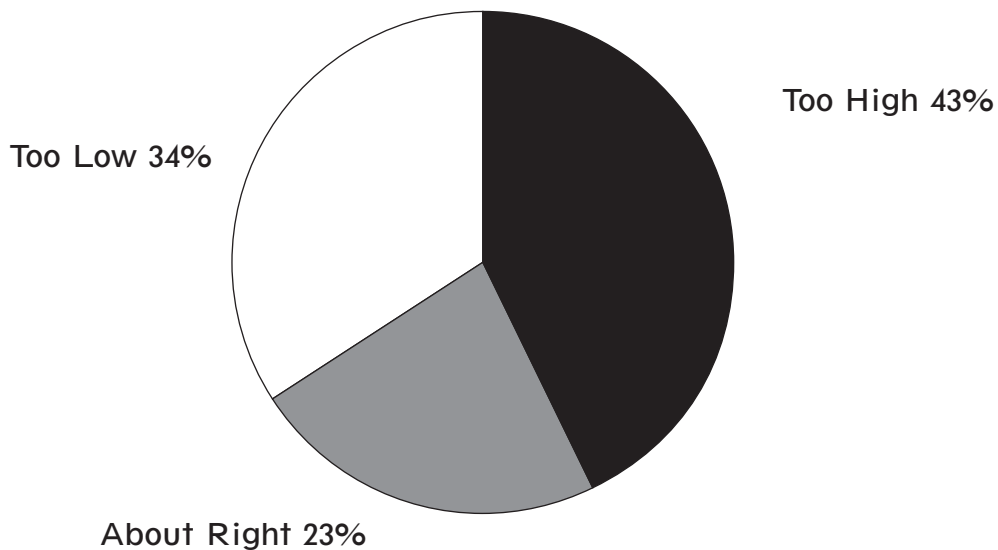
53% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

57% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

43% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

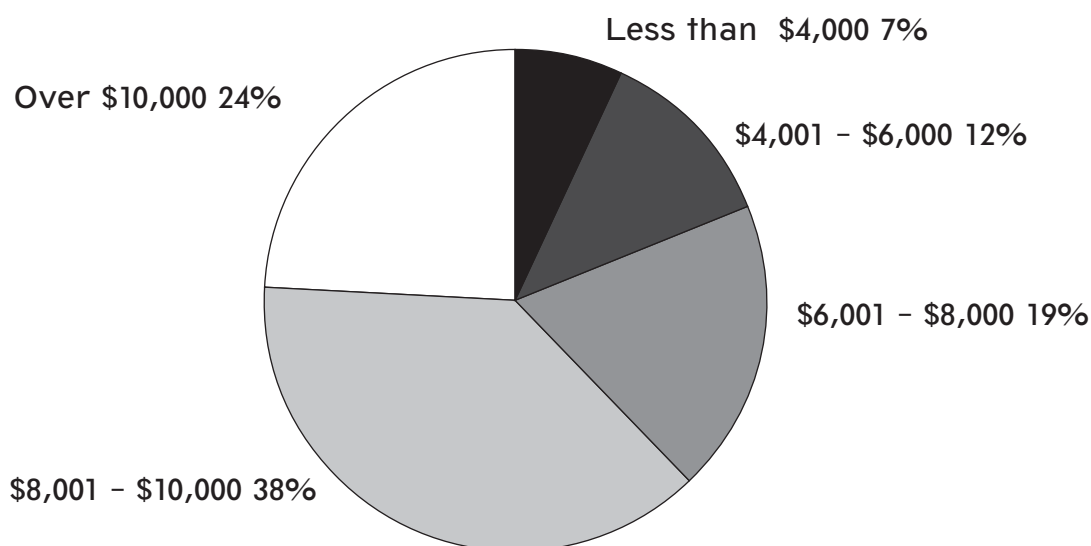
70% are familiar with school vouchers; 60% favor school vouchers

3. Do you believe that public school funding in Vermont is at a level that is: _____



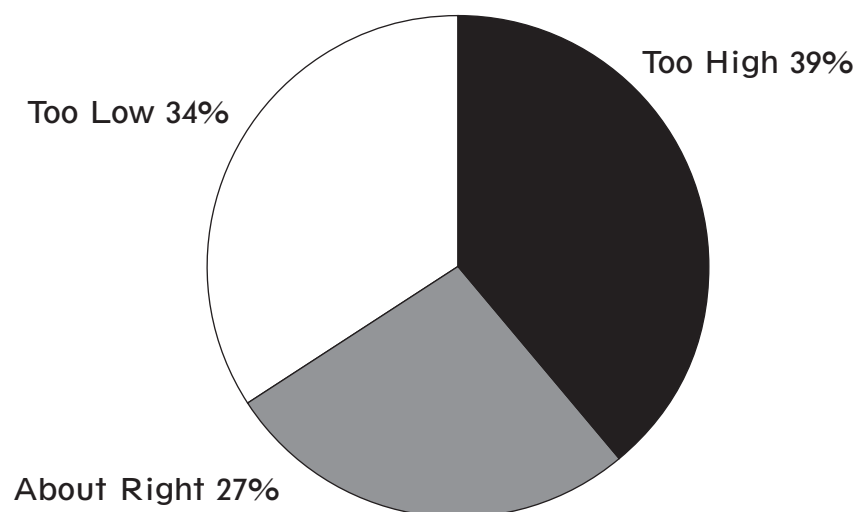
4. Approximately how much do you think is currently spent on each student in Vermont's public schools? Your estimate will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

Actual 2006 school year figure: 13,604*



*National Center for Education Statistics, "Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2005-06," published April 2008. Calculated by dividing Vermont's total expenditures (Table 8) by Vermont's fall 2005 student membership (Table 3).

5. Do you believe that the average salary for Vermont public school teachers is:



Demographic Perspectives

BURLINGTON (n=97)

45% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

45% prefer private schools

6% prefer regular public schools

31% prefer charter schools

14% prefer homeschooling

61% are familiar with town tuitioning; 69% favor town tuitioning

33% are familiar with virtual schools; 45% favor virtual schools

49% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

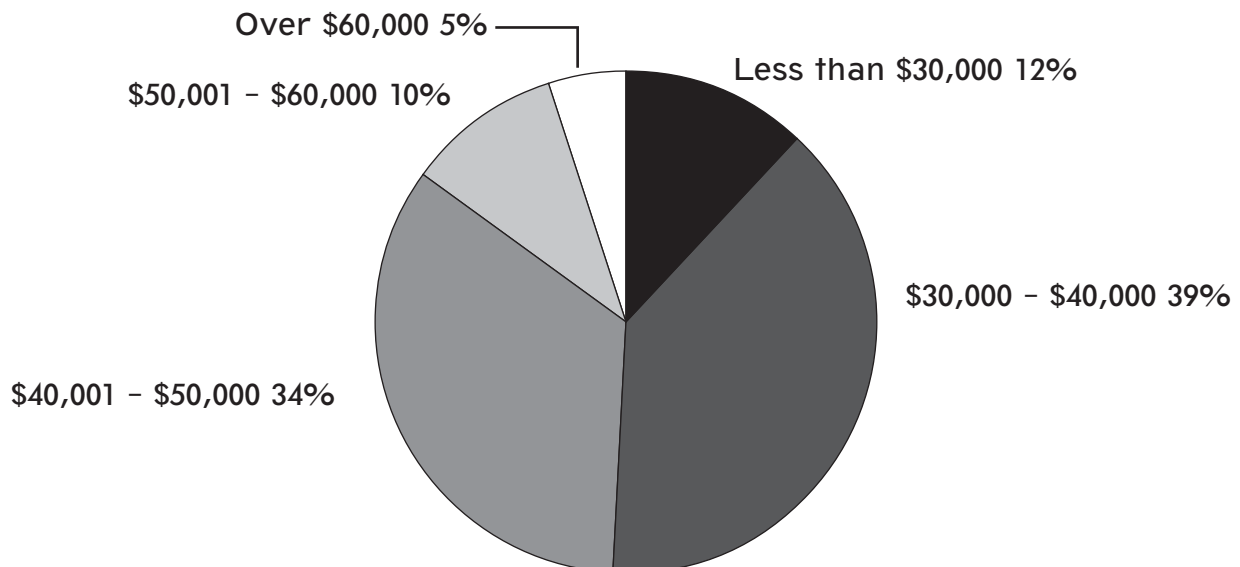
53% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

40% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

67% are familiar with school vouchers; 65% favor school vouchers

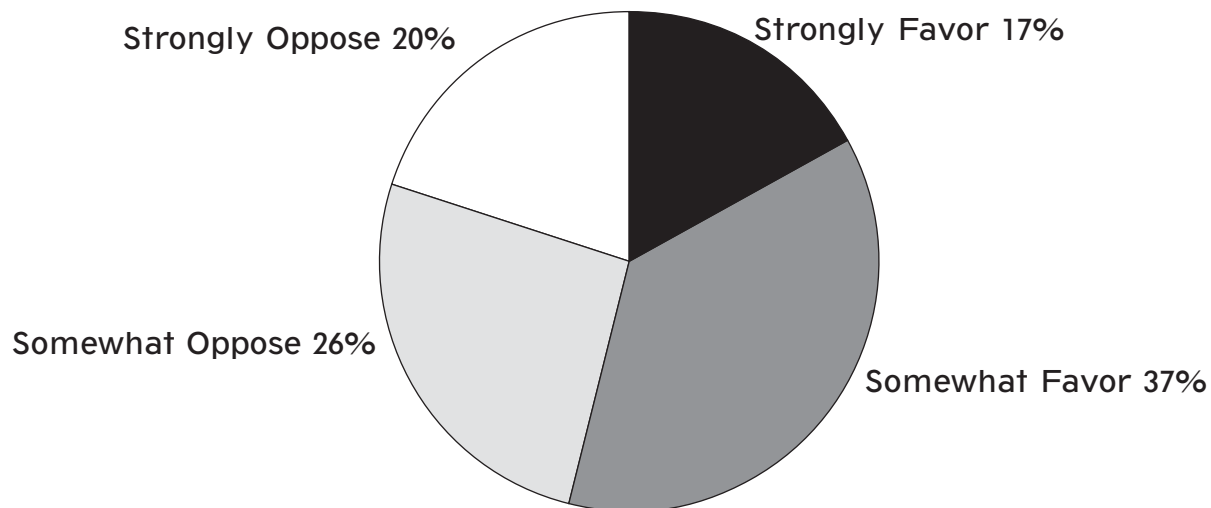
6. Approximately how much do you think is the average salary for Vermont's public school teachers? _____

Actual 2006 school year figure: \$46,622*

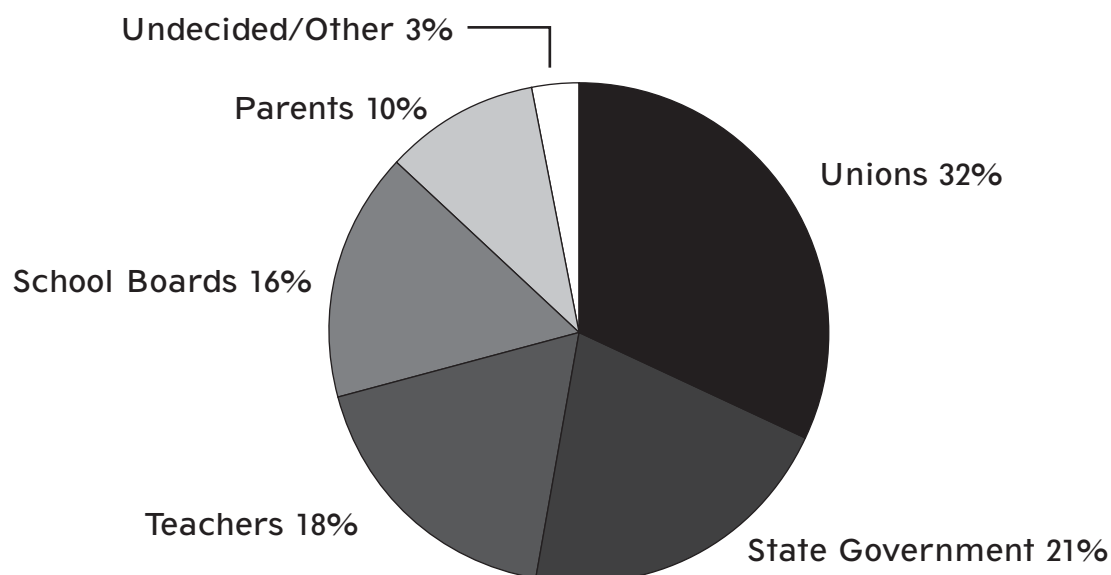


*National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 2007, published March 2008.

7. How much would you favor or oppose financially rewarding teachers whose students make more academic progress—in terms of measurable outcomes—when compared to similar students taught by other teachers?



8. Who has the greatest influence on Vermont's public school system?



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

Demographic Perspectives

NORTHERN VERMONT (n=483)

45% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

41% prefer private schools

13% prefer regular public schools

28% prefer charter schools

15% prefer homeschooling

66% are familiar with town tuitioning; 65% favor town tuitioning

39% are familiar with virtual schools; 45% favor virtual schools

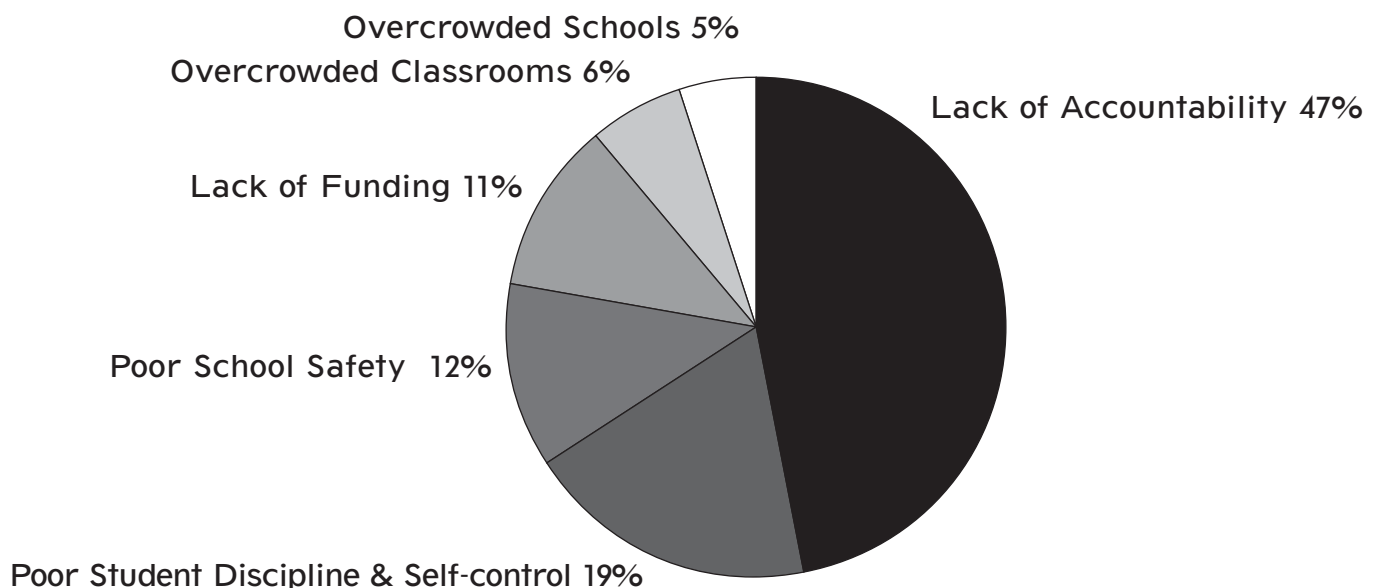
51% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

62% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

41% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

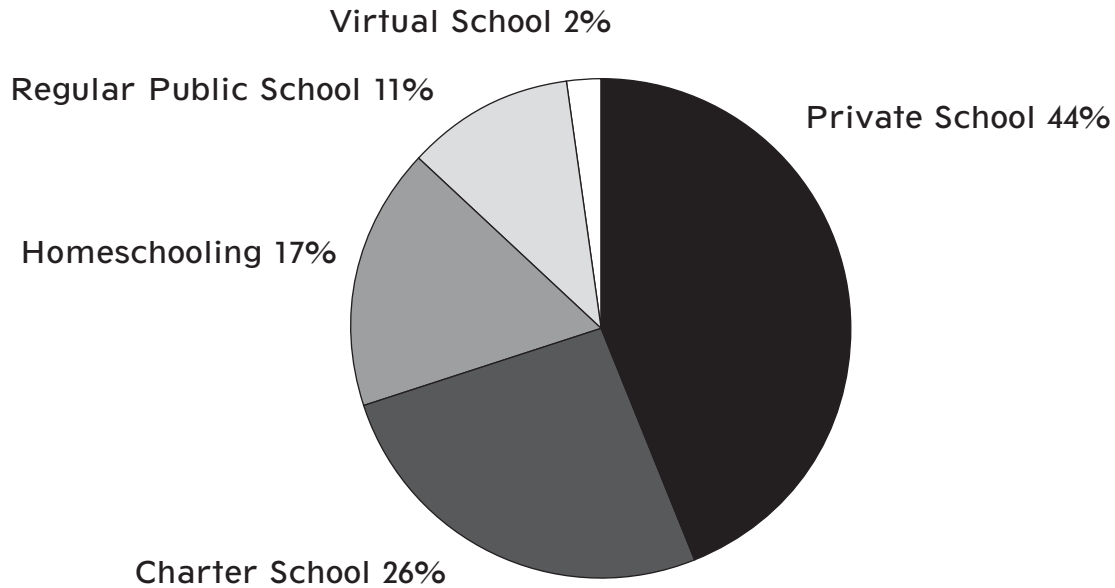
70% are familiar with school vouchers; 56% favor school vouchers

9. What do you see as the biggest challenge confronting Vermont's public school system?



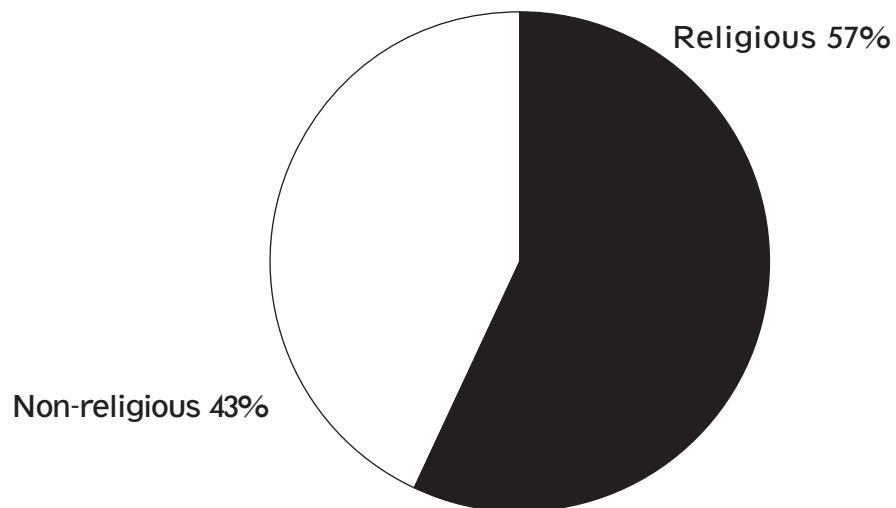
The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

10. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child? _____



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

11. [If "Private School" from Question 10] Please specify the type of Private School. _____



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

Demographic Perspectives

CENTRAL VERMONT (n=463)

43% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

43% prefer private schools

11% prefer regular public schools

25% prefer charter schools

20% prefer homeschooling

63% are familiar with town tuitioning; 61% favor town tuitioning

38% are familiar with virtual schools; 44% favor virtual schools

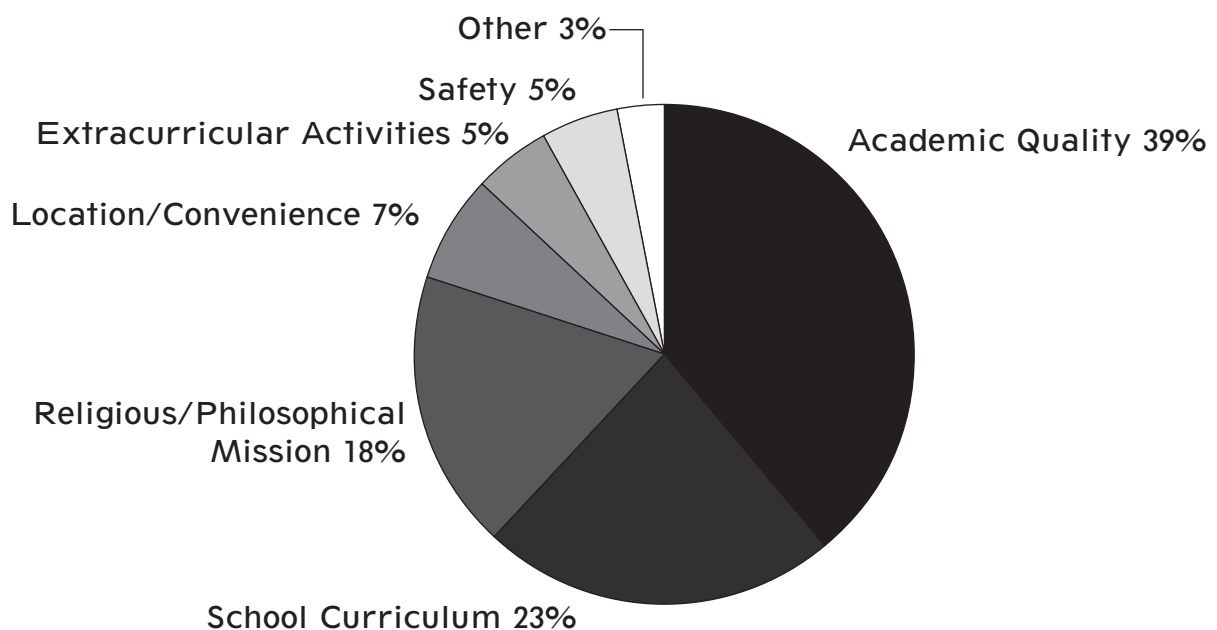
51% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

58% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

46% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

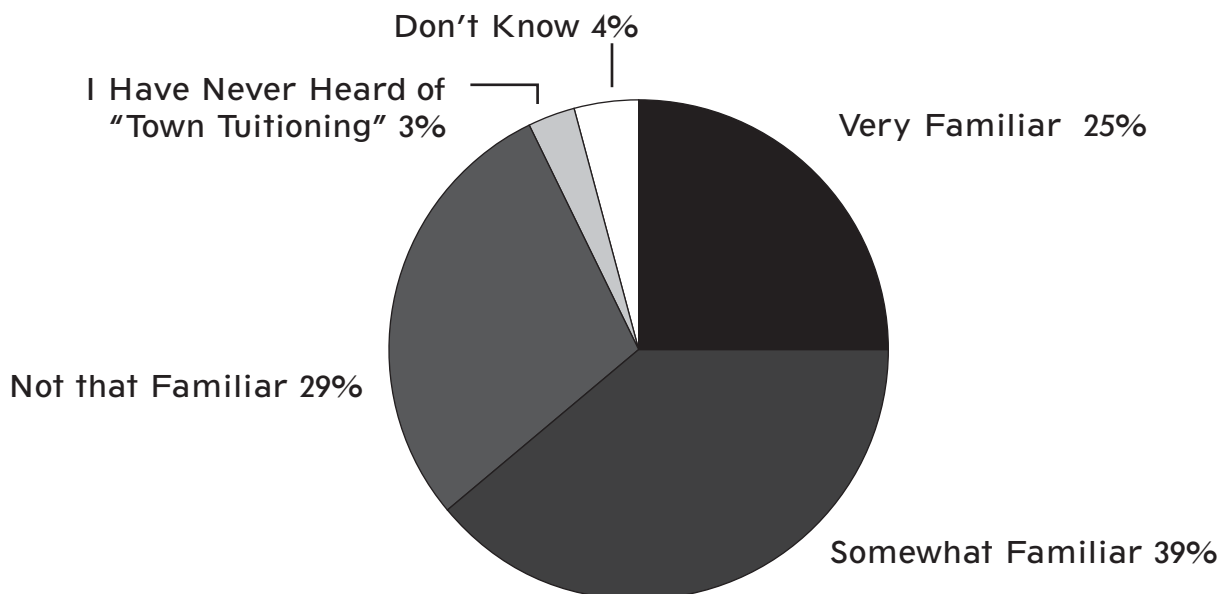
68% are familiar with school vouchers; 61% favor school vouchers

12. Why would you select [answer from question 10] for your child? _____

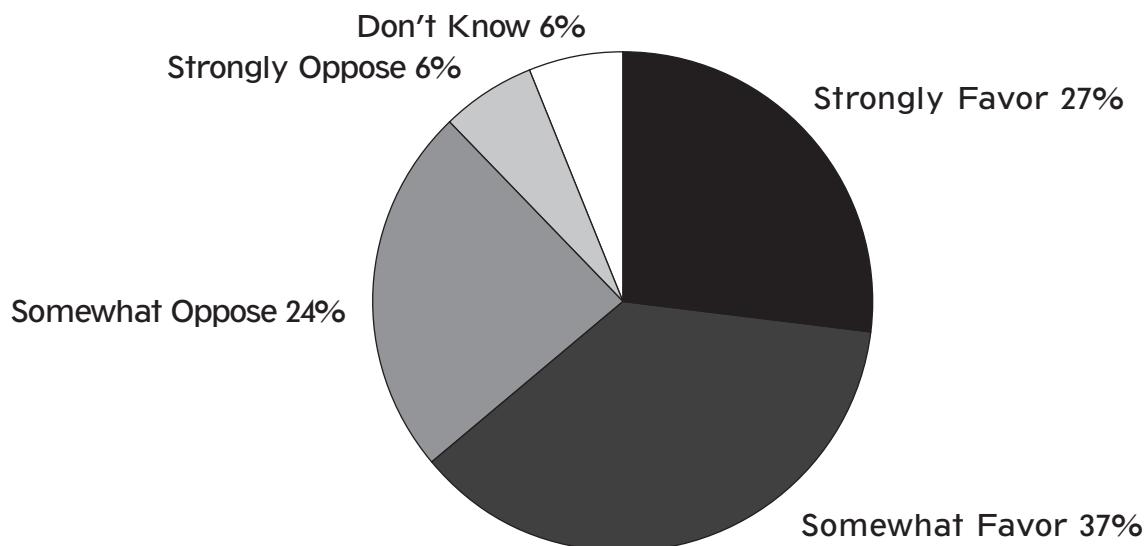


The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

13. How familiar are you with Vermont's "town tuitioning" system?



14. Many small towns in Vermont do not operate local high schools, and some do not operate local elementary schools. In the state's town tuitioning system, students in these towns are eligible to attend public schools in other towns or non-religious private schools. The "sending" towns pay tuition directly to the "receiving" schools. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea?



The order of the possible responses was rotated to avoid bias.

Demographic Perspectives

SOUTHERN VERMONT (n=157)

43% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

57% prefer private schools

8% prefer regular public schools

21% prefer charter schools

15% prefer homeschooling

62% are familiar with town tuitioning; 68% favor town tuitioning

25% are familiar with virtual schools; 42% favor virtual schools

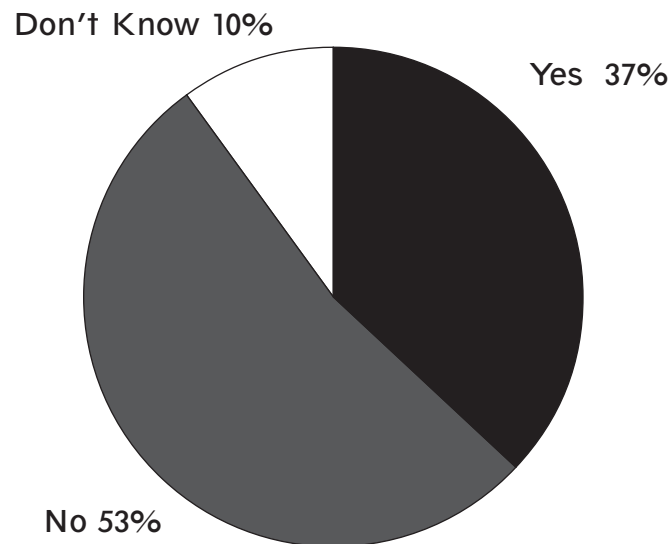
59% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

50% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

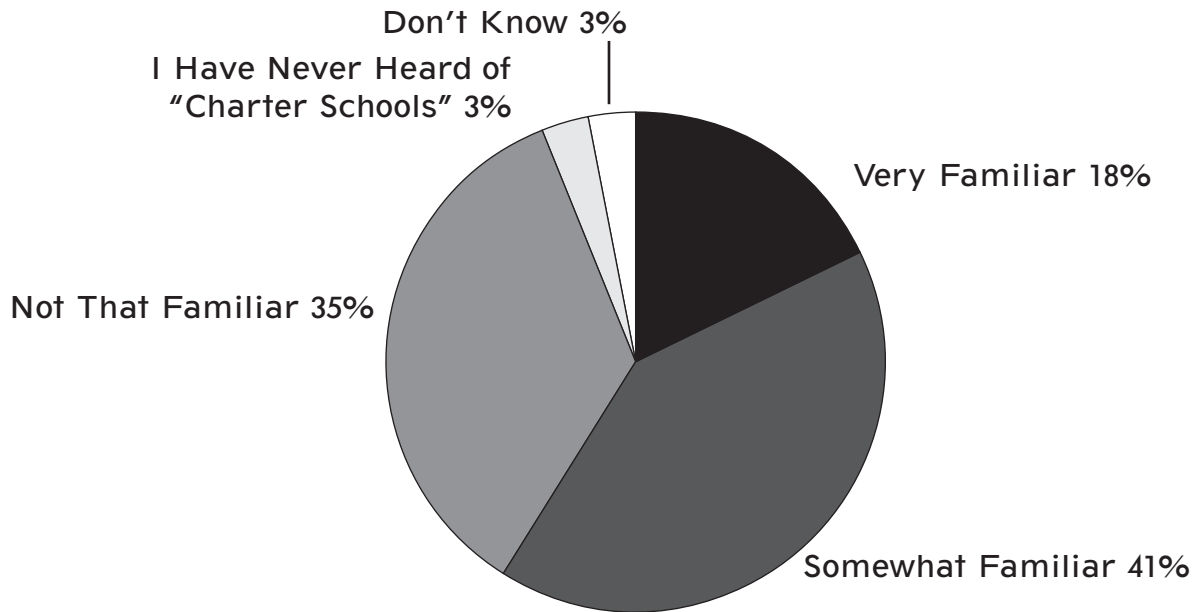
44% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

68% are familiar with school vouchers; 57% favor school vouchers

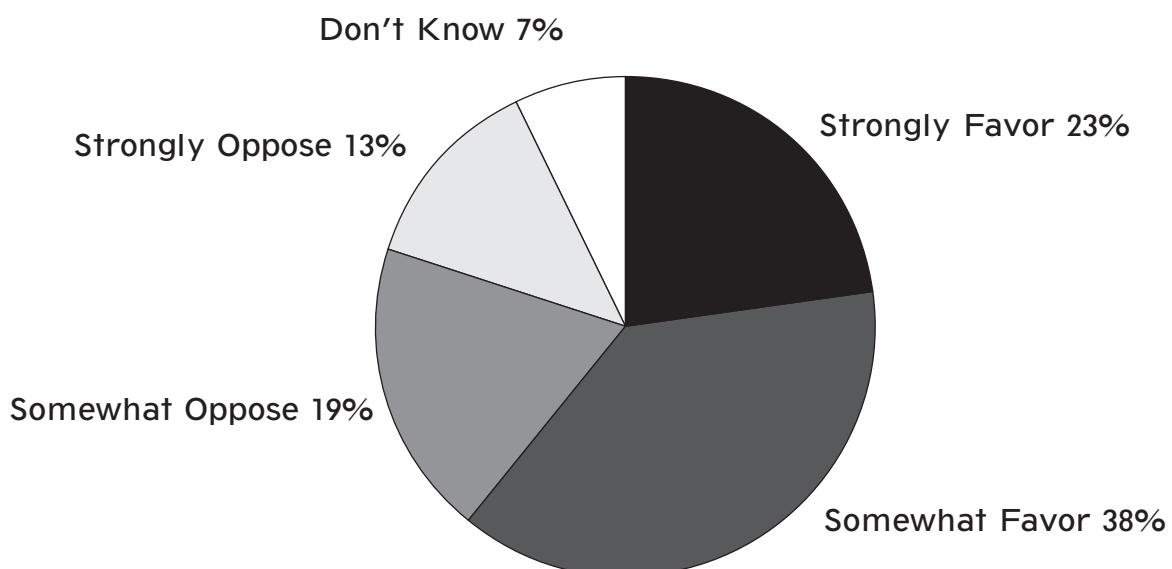
15. Do you live in a supervisory union/school district that offers "town tuitioning"?



16. How familiar are you with charter schools in K-12 education? _____



17. Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are free from many existing public school regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea? _____



Demographic Perspectives

DEMOCRATS (n=444)

44% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

44% prefer private schools

13% prefer regular public schools

25% prefer charter schools

16% prefer homeschooling

64% are familiar with town tuitioning; 65% favor town tuitioning

37% are familiar with virtual schools; 46% favor virtual schools

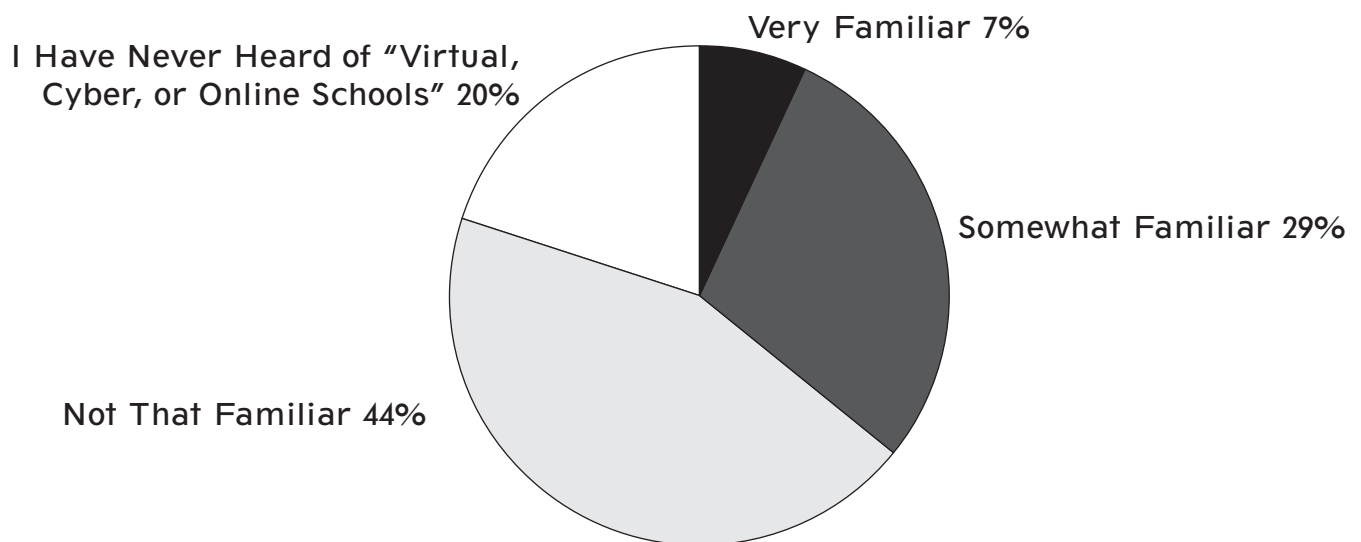
54% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

57% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

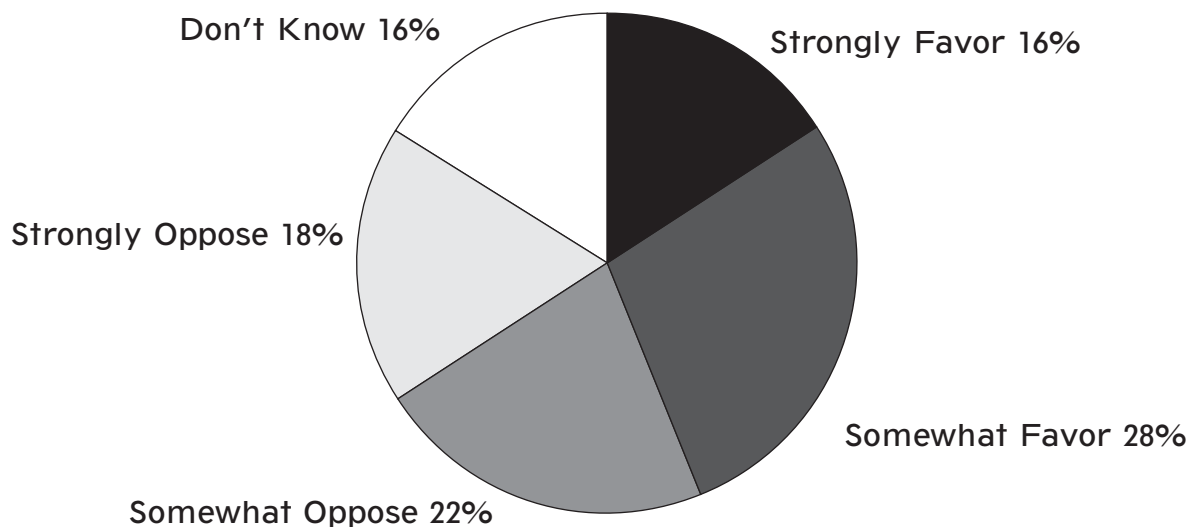
41% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

70% are familiar with school vouchers; 62% favor school vouchers

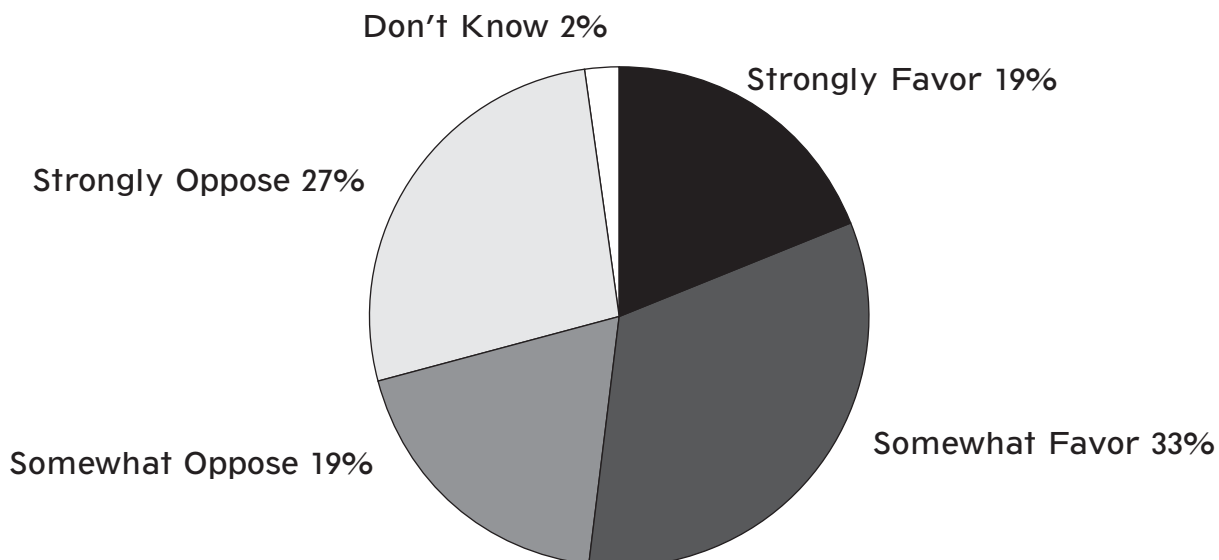
18. How familiar are you with "virtual schools" in K-12 education? These schools are sometimes called "cyber schools" and "online schools".



19. Virtual schools can be public or private schools that allow elementary, middle, and high school students to work with their curriculum and teachers over the Internet, rather than a traditional classroom. In general, do you favor or oppose this kind of idea? _____



20. Some states give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships. This policy supports a "tax-credit scholarship system." If a proposal were made in Vermont to create such a system, would you favor or oppose such a plan? _____



Demographic Perspectives

INDEPENDENTS (n=348)

46% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

43% prefer private schools

11% prefer regular public schools

26% prefer charter schools

17% prefer homeschooling

65% are familiar with town tuitioning; 62% favor town tuitioning

38% are familiar with virtual schools; 44% favor virtual schools

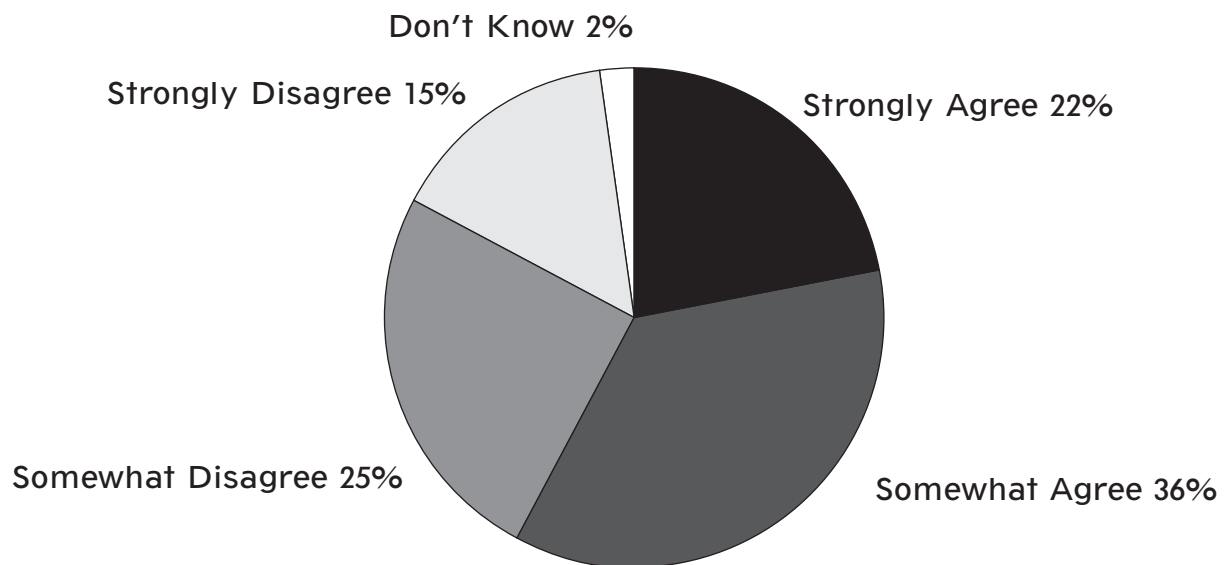
50% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

58% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

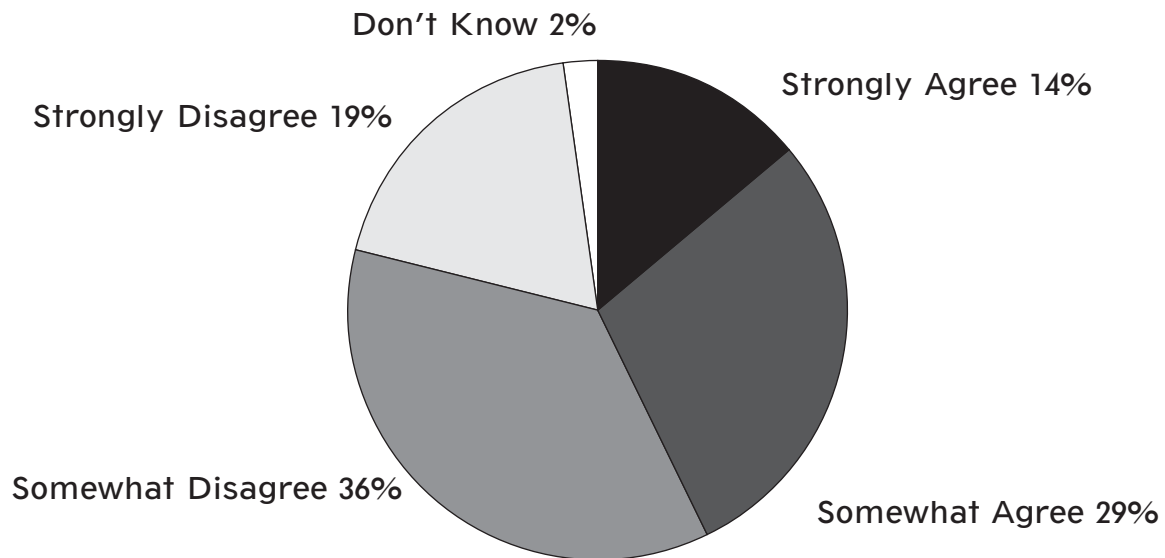
47% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

71% are familiar with school vouchers; 57% favor school vouchers

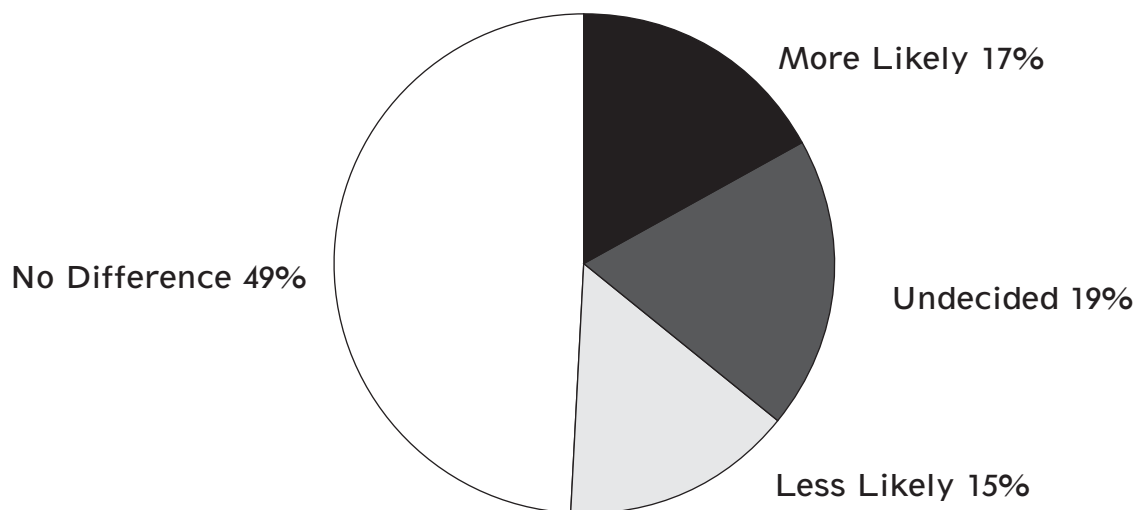
21. Some people believe that tax-credit scholarships should be available to all families, regardless of income and special needs. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? _____



22. Some people believe that tax-credit scholarships should only be available to students based on financial need. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? _____



23. Thinking ahead to the next election, when a candidate for Governor, State Senator or Representative supports tax-credit scholarships, would that make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or make no difference whatsoever in your selection of candidates? _____



Demographic Perspectives

REPUBLICANS (n=276)

41% rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"

43% prefer private schools

8% prefer regular public schools

26% prefer charter schools

20% prefer homeschooling

62% are familiar with town tuitioning; 64% favor town tuitioning

33% are familiar with virtual schools; 42% favor virtual schools

53% favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships

61% agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships

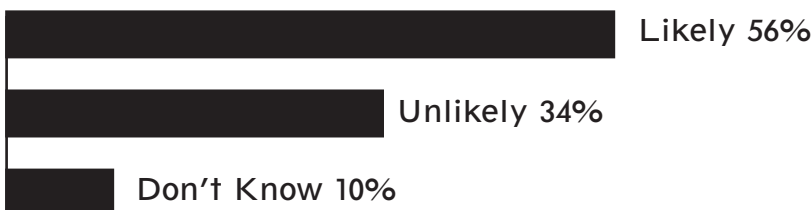
41% agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships

64% are familiar with school vouchers; 59% favor school vouchers

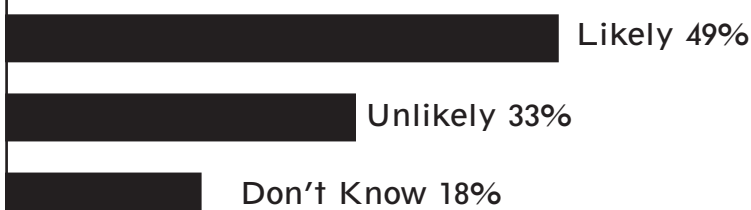
Forecasting Questions

"In this section, I would like to know if you think the following statements are likely or unlikely to happen if a tax-credit scholarship system is implemented in Vermont. If you are unsure, feel free to say I don't know." (*rotate questions 24 – 31 to avoid bias*)

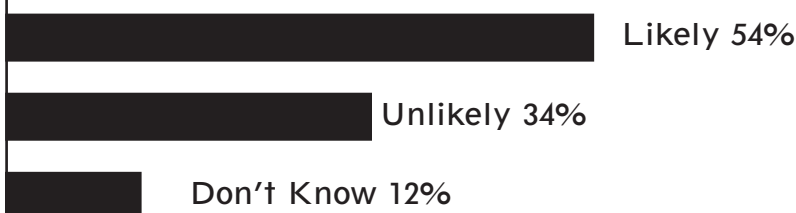
24. Parents will have more options.



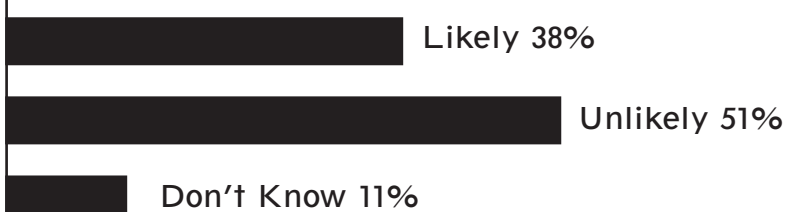
25. Parents will need better information for decisions.



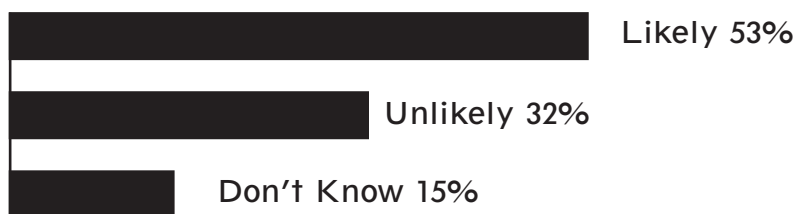
26. Public schools and private schools will compete for students.



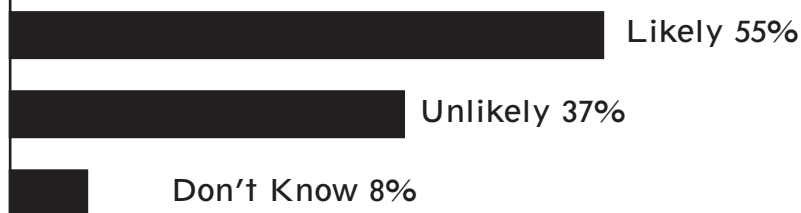
27. Private schools will not be accountable.



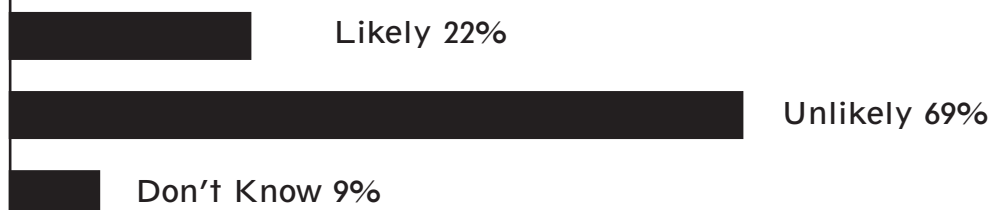
28. Parents will have more power.



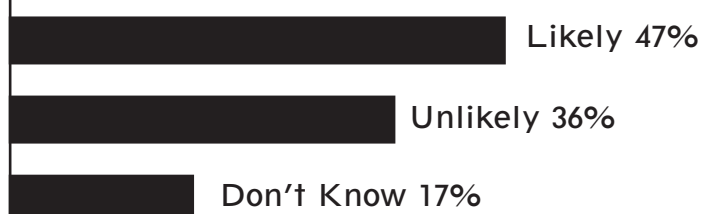
29. There will be less overcrowding in public schools.



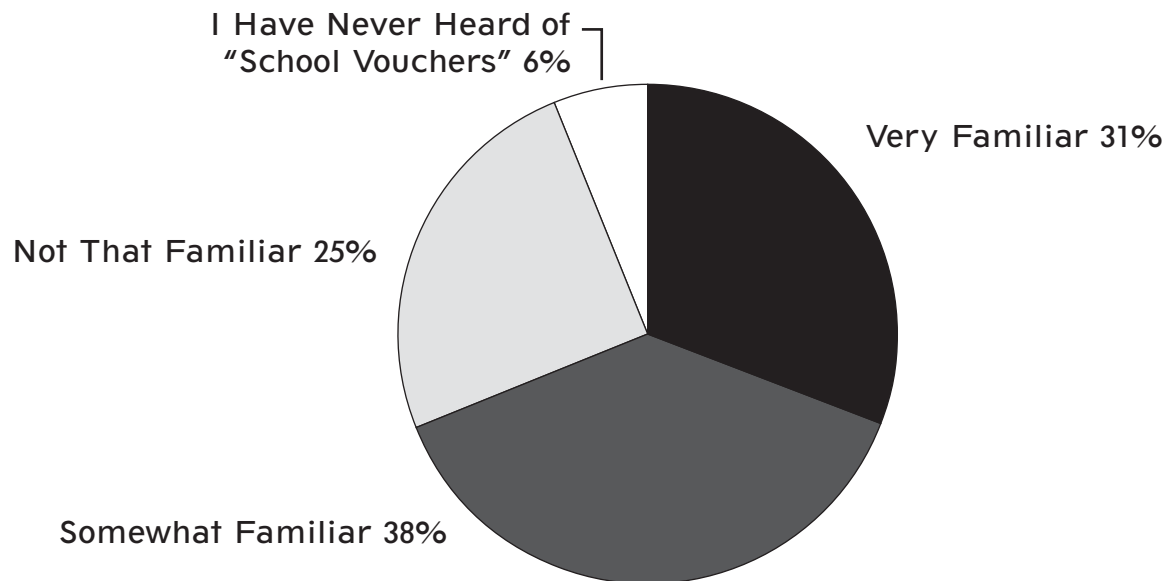
30. Public schools will close.



31. Public schools and private schools will have incentives to improve.

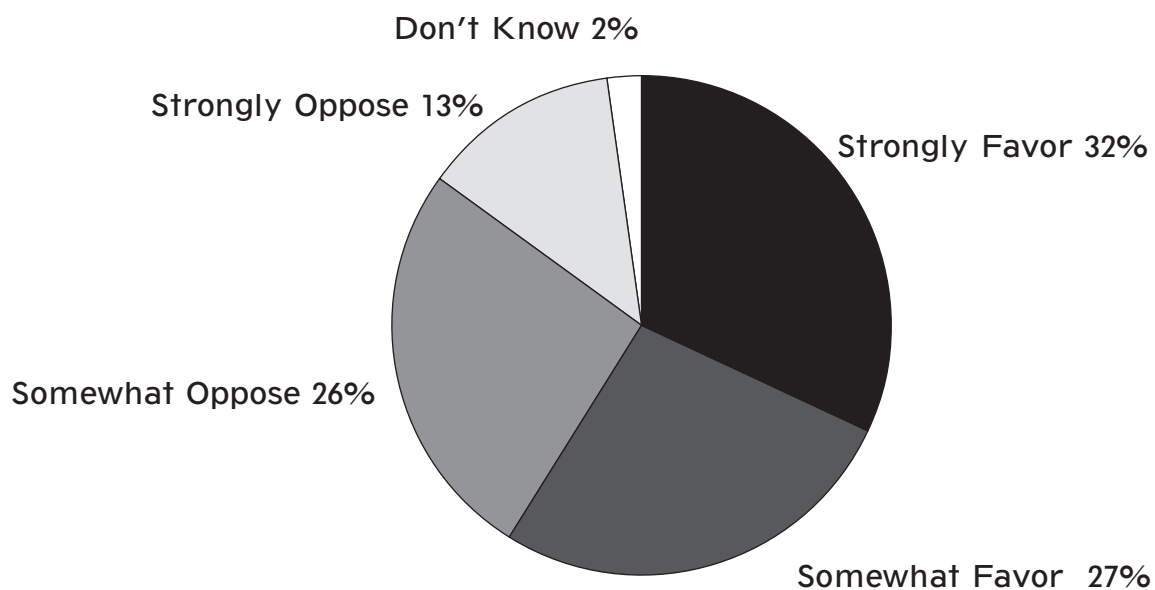


32. How familiar are you with "school vouchers" in K-12 education? _____



33. School vouchers allow parents the option of sending their children to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

If this approach were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a "school voucher" to help pay tuition for the school where they choose to send their children. In general, do you favor or oppose this idea? _____



Community Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Urban (n = 96)	Suburban (n = 72)	Small Town (n = 576)	Rural (n = 456)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	46	50	43	43
Prefer private schools	46	38	44	45
Prefer regular public schools	6	14	10	12
Prefer charter schools	30	25	26	26
Prefer homeschooling	15	22	18	16
Familiar with virtual schools	33	28	38	36
Favor virtual schools	45	47	43	45
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships	48	59	53	50
Agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships	52	62	60	57
Agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships	40	50	40	46
Familiar with school vouchers	66	65	69	70
Favor school vouchers	66	57	61	56

Race/Ethnicity Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	African American (n = 12)	Asian (n = 6)	Hispanic (n = 12)	Native American (n = 6)	White (n = 1,140)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	33	50	83	66	44
Prefer private schools	33	33	50	50	44
Prefer regular public schools	0	0	0	17	11
Prefer charter schools	33	33	25	33	26
Prefer homeschooling	8	17	25	0	17
Familiar with virtual schools	25	34	42	33	36
Favor virtual schools	75	84	59	66	43
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships	66	66	59	50	51
Agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships	66	66	59	66	58
Agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships	75	17	59	50	43
Familiar with school vouchers	50	50	83	83	69
Favor school vouchers	83	83	42	67	60

Religious Identification

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Protestant (n = 372)	Catholic (n = 456)	Jewish (n = 12)	None (n = 264)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	43	45	33	48
Prefer private schools	40	46	42	49
Prefer regular public schools	12	10	17	10
Prefer charter schools	27	27	25	22
Prefer homeschooling	18	17	17	15
Familiar with virtual schools	33	36	8	39
Favor virtual schools	44	46	33	39
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships	53	50	92	53
Agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships	56	60	59	54
Agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships	42	41	33	46
Familiar with school vouchers	72	68	59	65
Favor school vouchers	59	58	59	62

Age Groups

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	18-25 (n = 108)	26-35 (n = 120)	36-45 (n = 384)	46-55 (n = 252)	56-65 (n = 180)	Over 65 (n = 156)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	42	45	45	46	47	44
Prefer private schools	46	46	42	43	40	51
Prefer regular public schools	9	7	9	12	17	12
Prefer charter schools	23	32	28	24	26	22
Prefer homeschooling	19	14	18	18	16	13
Familiar with virtual schools	35	29	36	39	36	39
Favor virtual schools	45	46	45	43	45	43
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships	57	58	53	54	43	50
Agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships	55	68	58	62	55	50
Agree in principle with financial need-based eligibility of scholarships	45	45	40	41	47	46
Familiar with school vouchers	66	68	67	71	73	69
Favor school vouchers	54	60	56	61	61	64

Family Income Groups

(expressed by percentage of respondents)

	Under \$25,000 (n = 84)	\$25,000 - \$49,999 (n = 444)	\$50,000 - \$74,999 (n = 348)	\$75,000 - \$150,000 (n = 216)	Over \$150,000 (n = 108)
Rate the state's public school system as "good" or "excellent"	42	43	45	45	46
Prefer private schools	40	44	47	41	43
Prefer regular public schools	10	13	9	12	10
Prefer charter schools	32	24	26	27	25
Prefer homeschooling	14	17	16	18	19
Familiar with virtual schools	44	37	35	34	33
Favor virtual schools	42	48	45	37	38
Favor tax credits for individuals and businesses funding private schools scholarships	52	53	52	42	51
Agree in principle with universal eligibility of scholarships	53	57	57	60	62
Agree in principle with financial need- based eligibility of scholarships	36	42	44	44	46
Familiar with school vouchers	73	67	69	72	66
Favor school vouchers	57	55	60	68	56

Demographics

ARE YOU CURRENTLY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF ANY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12?

Yes	87%
No	13%

DO YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS MOST CLOSELY REFLECT THOSE OF A:

Democrat	37%
Libertarian	3%
Republican	23%
Progressive	6%
Other Party affiliation	2%
Independent/No Party affiliation	29%

HOW WOULD YOU BEST DESCRIBE WHERE YOU LIVE?

Urban	8%
Suburban	6%
Small Town	48%
Rural	38%

IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AGE CATEGORIES DO YOU FALL?

18 - 25	9%
26 - 35	10%
36 - 45	32%
46 - 55	21%
56 - 65	15%
Over 65	13%

ARE YOU:

African American	1%
Asian	0.5%
Hispanic	1%
Native American	0.5%
White	95%
Other	2%

IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES DOES YOUR TOTAL FAMILY INCOME FALL?

Under \$25,000	7%
\$25,000-\$49,999	37%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	29%
\$75,000 - \$150,000	18%
Over \$150,000	9%

ARE YOU:

Male	49%
Female	51%



Milton and Rose D. Friedman established the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice in 1996. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization addressing the Friedmans' long-standing concern about the urgent challenges facing America's elementary and secondary education systems. The foundation's philosophy asserts that the best way to improve the quality of education is to enable all parents to have unfettered free choice of the schools that their children attend. The Friedman Foundation conducts research and outreach projects to educate the general public and to amplify the call for systemic reform through school choice.

Dr. Milton Friedman, Founder

Nobel Laureate and Founder of the Friedman Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Rose D. Friedman, Co-Chairperson

Noted Economist and Founder of the Friedman Foundation

Dr. Patrick Byrne, Co-Chairperson

Chairman of the Board and President, Overstock.com

Gordon St. Angelo
President Emeritus

Janet F. Martel, Vice Chairperson
Attorney

Lawrence A. O'Connor, Jr., Treasurer
Executive Director, Butler Business Accelerator

Charles H. Brunie
Brunie Associates

Robert C. Enlow
President & CEO

Dr. David D. Friedman

Professor, Santa Clara University

William J. Hume

Chairman of the Board, Basic American, Inc.

Samuel H. Husbands, Jr.
President, Husbands Capital Markets

Sandra Jordan
Owner & Creative Director, Jordan Winery

Howard S. Rich
Rich & Rich

Fred Reams
Reams Asset Management

Dr. Michael Walker
Senior Fellow, The Fraser Institute

THE FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT

As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, we rely solely on the generous support of our donors to continue promoting the Friedman's vision for school choice throughout the country. Please send your tax-deductible gift today and help interject liberty and choice into our education system. Giving parents the freedom to choose the school that works best for their children is our goal, and with your help we can make it happen.



One American Square • Suite 2420
Indianapolis, IN 46282

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit #5677